

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
MFA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

by

SHAWN EVAN SERFAS

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF FINE ARTS

IN

PAINTING

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

FALL 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

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Graduate Studies and Research, for acceptance, a thesis entitled:

Final Visual Presentation

Submitted by Shawn Evan Serfas partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Fine Arts.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

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Desert Armor #3 (Stone Series)	2002	Acrylic & Agregate on Canvas	23 ³ / ₄ " x 23 ³ / ₄ "



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Remote Sensing

This Exhibition Is The Final Visual Presentation For The
Degree Of Master Of Fine Arts In Painting

A Thesis
Submitted to the College of Graduate Studies and Research
and to the Department of Art and Design
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Fine Arts
in the Department of Art and Design
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

Shawn Evan Serfas
Fall 2003

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Heather & Victor Martin

Don & Sheilah Millar

Jean Adams

Derek Serfas

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Remote Sensing

Artist Statement - Shawn Serfas

The foundation of my art practice has always been about a search for a personal expression of nature's physical and creative beauty. This basis parallels and co-exists with my desire to understand humanity's structural marks and presence in relation to the complexity of natural form. A personal need to analyze form and to simplify the composition of nature is an inherent part of this search. I am inspired by intimate experiences with the everyday landscape and the desire to abstract it through memory and imagination. An acknowledgment of the subtlety and spirit of nature is what I always pursue.

Remote Sensing represents specific events related to both nature and the creative act. An extended working title for this research is called 'Journey to the Surface of the Earth - The Remote Sensing Group.' It is a symbolic portrayal of my own experiences of place and time within the environment. I try to express that sense of place and time through process and visually depict nature's form and mystery from a remote position, where all references to time, place and scale are abstracted. The transition from thought to process that remotely creates the visual physical experience is my primary concern. The interest I have for abstracting from reality allows me to deconstruct nature's elegance into my own artistic vocabulary. The natural environment has given me insight into the relationship between my creative being and my placement in creation; an inspiration I intend to keep in focus while exploring my visual language as an artist.

Shawn Evan Serfas 2003

Portfolio - Slide List #1, Slides 1 - 24

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. 'Sun-Bronzed #2'
Stone Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Mixed Media
2002 | 9. 'Cathedral #7'
Fissure & Erosion Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003 | 17. 'Density - Horizon #3'
Self-Similar H. Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003 |
| 2. 'Pressure-Horizon #1'
Self-Similar H. Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003 | 10. 'Abyssal Plane #2'
Turtle Island Series
95 1/2 inch x 35 1/2 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003 | 18. 'Iron Stone (Tiger)'
Self-Similar Anvil Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003 |
| 3. 'Coralline Valley'
Stone Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Mixed Media
2002 | 11. 'Rudy'
Fissure & Erosion Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2002 | 19. 'Calm - Horizon #5'
Self-Similar H. Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003 |
| 4. 'Sheeting'
Fissure & Erosion Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2002 | 12. 'Wall of Light - L.H.'
Monolithic Series
71 1/2 inch x 48 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2002 | 20. 'Gravity #9'
Self-Similar Anvil Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003 |
| 5. 'Origin - North Sask.'
Stone Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Mixed Media
2002 | 13. 'Desert Armor #2'
Stone Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Mixed Media
2002 | |
| 6. 'Mass - Horizon #2'
Self-Similar H. Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003 | 14. 'Obsidian Ratio #1'
Stone Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Mixed Media
2003 | |
| 7. 'The Gathering'
Turtle Island Series
59 3/4 inch x 71 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003 | 15. 'Radial Grey'
Stone Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Mixed Media
2003 | |
| 8. 'Cathedral #5'
Fissure & Erosion Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003 | 16. 'Red Shift - A. #2'
Stone Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Mixed Media
2003 | |

Shawn Evan Serfas 2003

Portfolio - Slide List #2, Slides 25 - 28

21. 'The Great Divide #2'
Stone Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Mixed Media
2002
22. 'Aeolian Movement'
Turtle Island Series
59 5/8 inch x 49 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003
23. 'Base Level - Atm. Plane'
Turtle Island Series
34 1/2 inch x 95 1/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003
24. 'Turtle Island #3'
Fissure & Erosion Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2002
25. 'Equation L-Sign'
Stone Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Mixed Media
2003
26. 'The Firmament'
Turtle Island Series
34 1/4 inch x 95 5/8 inch
Acrylic on Canvas
2003
27. 'Turtle Island #7'
Stone Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Mixed Media
2003
28. 'Fault Plane-Pac. Coral'
Fissure & Erosion Series
23 3/4 inch x 23 3/4 inch
Acrylic on Canvas, M/M
2003



"Turtle Island #1", Shawn Serfas, 2003

Acrylic on Canvas 23 3/4" x 23 3/4"

"Remote Sensing"

Shawn Serfas

MFA Painting

This exhibition is the final presentation for the
degree of Master of Fine arts in Painting.

Closing Reception

Thursday, September 11, 2003

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Exhibition Dates

September 2 - 13, 2003



1-1 Fine Arts Building, 89 Avenue, 112 Street
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Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 - 5:00 pm • Saturday, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Closed Sunday, Monday & Statutory Holidays



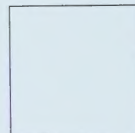
"Sun, Bronzed #2", Shawn Serfas, 2003

Mixed Media 23 3/4" x 23 3/4"

"Remote Sensing"

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